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Barends

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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'FIDOSTNANOPIBICO'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **Fidostnanopibico**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./360
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Fidostnanopibico', characterized by its compact and mounding plant habit; freely branching growth habit; early and freely flowering habit; daisy-type inflorescences with purple and white bi-colored ray florets; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis.*
Cultivar denomination: 'FIDOSTNANOPIBICO'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum ecklonis*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Fidostnanopibico'.

The new *Osteospermum* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Lier, The Netherlands. The objective of the program is to create and develop new compact *Osteospermum* plants that are freely branching, early and freely flowering and have attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* plant originated from a cross-pollination by the Inventor in May, 2005 of a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 45704, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 67235, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in De Lier, The Netherlands in October, 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in De Lier, The Netherlands since Nov. 1, 2005, has shown that the unique features of this new *Osteospermum* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Fidostnanopibico'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Fidostnanopibico' as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant:

1. Compact and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Daisy-type inflorescences with purple and white bi-colored ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the female parent selection primarily in growth habit as plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection. In addition, plants of the new *Osteospermum* have smaller inflorescences than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the male parent selection primarily in branching habit as plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more freely branching than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of the *Osteospermum* 'Fidostpifla', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,753. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in De Lier, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed primarily from plants of 'Fidostpifla' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were more compact than plants of 'Fidostpifla'.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* flowered earlier than plants of 'Fidostpifla'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Osteospermum* plant. The photograph comprises a

side perspective view of typical flowering plants of 'Fidostnanopibico' grown in container trays.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the spring in container trays, each tray with six 9-cm compartments, in a glass-covered greenhouse in De Lier, The Netherlands and under environmental conditions and cultural practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 17° C. to 35° C. and night temperatures ranged from 15° C. to 25° C. Plants were nine weeks old when the photograph and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Fidostnanopibico'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 45704, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number O 67235, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About six days at 22° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About one week at 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About twelve days at 22° C. to 30° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About two weeks at 20° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; whitish grey in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact and mounding plant habit; relatively short internodes, dense and bushy growth habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 17 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 15 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching habit with about eight lateral branches developing per plant; pinching is not required, however pinched plants will be larger than non-pinched plants. Length: About 10 cm to 11 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm to 2.5 cm. Strength: Strong, sturdy. Aspect: About 20° to 45° from vertical. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: Close to 144C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple; sessile. Length: About 5.5 cm. Width: About 3 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Lobed; serrate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Sparsely pubescent. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A; venation, close to 145C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 145B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with elliptic to slightly obovate-shaped ray florets; inflorescences positioned beyond the foliar plane on moderately strong peduncles; inflorescences terminal and axillary; inflorescences face upright; ray and disc florets developing acropetally on a capitulum.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering habit; about 25 to 35 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—In The Netherlands, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to frost in the autumn; early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about seven weeks after planting.

Inflorescence longevity.—At temperatures of 14° C. to 20° C., inflorescences last about 2.5 weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Globular to ovoid. Color: Close to 137A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.2 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 7 mm. Receptacle height: About 4 mm. Receptacle color: Close to 146A.

Ray florets.—Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 8 mm. Shape: Elliptic to slightly obovate. Apex: Rounded to slightly obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Number of ray florets per inflorescence and arrangement: About 17 to 18 in 1.5 whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: Towards the apex, close to 75A; towards the base, close to NN155D. When opening, lower surface: Longitudinal stripes, close to 186C and N79B. Fully opened, upper surface: Towards the apex, close to N78A; towards the base, close to NN155D; color does not fade with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Longitudinal stripes, close to 186C and N81B; color does not fade with development.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 1.5 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 35 to 45. Color, immature and mature: Apex: Close to 94A. Mid-section: Close to 85A to 85B. Base: Close to NN155D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 14 to 15 in a single whorl. Length: About 9 mm. Width: About 1 mm to 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A. Color, lower surface: Close to 138A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncles: About 6.5 cm. Length, axillary peduncles: About 7.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Filament length: About 3 mm. Filament color: Close to NN155D. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Close to N77A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 15B. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc

florets. Pistil length: About 5 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to 79A. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: Close to NN155D. Ovary color: Close to NN155D.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Osteospermum*.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermums*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 4° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Fidost-nanopibico' as illustrated and described.

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